

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 059991

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE

INFO USDEL SAN CLEMENTE IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 059991

TOSEC 37

WHITE HOUSE PASS TO SECRETARY ROGERS AT SAN CLEMENTE

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION PANAMA INFO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC
DIPLOMATIC POSTS, USUN NEW YORK MAR 31.

QUOTE 059991.

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, PN

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR PITY CLAIMS PANAMA WILL NOT TAKE UP
CANAL ISSUE AT OASGA BUT WILL PROPOSE DRASTIC CHANGES IN
ORGANIZATION OF OAS, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE DEPOLITICIZATION
OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND MOVING PRINCIPAL ORGANS OUT
OF WASHINGTON.

1. PANAMA' S OAS AMBASSADOR PITY ON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON
SPOKE TO JOVA REGARDING FORTHCOMING OASGA, SAYING THAT IF
U. S. WAS IN MOOD OF " PEACE AND CONCILIATION" PANAMA WOULD
ALSO SHARE THIS MOOD. THE PANAMANIAN POSITIONS HAVE BEEN
AMPY SET FORTH AT THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
MEETING AND HE SAW NO PURPOSE IN REPEATING SAME ARGUMENTS
IN OAS FORUM.

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PAGE 02 STATE 059991

2. PANAMA WOULD, HOWEVER, HAVE EXTENSIVE PROPOSALS TO MAKE REGARDING THE OAS ITSELF IN VIEW OF ITS SERIOUS MISGIVINGS AS TO PROPER FUNCTIONING OF ORGANIZATION, WHICH SHARED BY MANY COUNTRIES. SUCH PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE WOULD INCLUDE:

A. "DEPOLITICIZATION" OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES OF GENERAL SECRETARIAT-- VURPOSE WOULD BE TO REMOVE FROM INFLUENCE OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS REPS TO OAS AND ALSO TO -DEPERSONALIZE" ACTIVITIES OF SOME HIGH OAS FUNCTIONARIES. IN PITY'S VIEW, ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE REORGANIZED ALONG LINES OF LARGE FOUNDATION WITH CONTRACT PERSONNEL.

B. PERMANENT COUNCIL SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED, GIVEN MORE POWERS OF DECISION AND OVERSIGHT. IT SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE MOVED FROM WASHINGTON BECAUSE OF UNDUE INFLUENCE EXERTED NOT SO MUCH BY USG AS BY WASHINGTON DIPLOMATIC, INTERNATIONAL BUREAUCRATIC LIFE. WHILE PANAMA RECOGNIZED DIFFICULTIES OF POSSIBLE NEW LOCATION OF COUNCIL, HE WAS CERTAIN THAT SOME COMPROMISE COULD BE REACHED. FOR INSTANCE, ON SOME CARIBBEAN ISLAND, IF NECESSARY.

C. U. S. SHOULD REMAIN IN POLITICAL COUNCIL AND SHOULD "CONTRIBUTE IN INCREASING PROPORTIONS TO PROPOSED DEPOLITICIZED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE".

D. WHETHER OR NOT PRINCIPAL ORGANS OF OAS WERE MOVED OUT OF WASHINGTON, A MUCH HIGHER PROPORTION OF ITS PERSONNEL SHOULD BE IN THE FIELD RATHER THAN AT HEADQUARTERS.

3. PITY RECOGNIZED IMPOSSIBILITY OF MAKING RATIONAL DECISIONS ON MATTERS OF SUCH IMPORTANCE DURING HECTIC OASGA AND WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THEY BE STUDIED FOR FINAL DECISION AT NEXT YEAR'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR AT SOME SPECIAL ASSEMBLY CALLED FOR THIS PURPOSE. IN ANY CASE, IT SHOULD BE NO LATER THAN EXPIRATION OF GALO PLAZA'S TERM IN 1975. RUSH UNQUOTE RUSH

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